

SAGE Observations

SAGE operates under the aegis of the Tseng College at California State University, Northridge

Study ♦ Activity ♦ Growth ♦ Enrichment ♦ Summer 2018

President's Stream of Thoughts...



SAGE began in 1987, and here we are in 2018. Tempus fugit. Some of us have been here at least 20 years, others of us are basically brand new. Our appreciation for SAGE's collegial environment and our love of learning have brought and kept us here. While SAGE

may not be totally unique, it offers us so much.

To paraphrase JFK, some of you may also want to ask what you can do for SAGE, not just what SAGE can do for you. Think about what SAGE has done for you, and, if you want, how you might volunteer to serve on one of our committees or develop and coordinate a class.

Personally, SAGE quenches my "thirst" on several levels. When I retired, I was afraid my life would consist of sitting at home, reading and watching television, and, perhaps, getting out a few times a week. I'd see doctors, the dentist, my banker, have retail therapy and see a friend or two for tea. And now? Well, I do sit and read and watch TV and go out several times a week. But much of my reading is research for topics I may present in a SAGE class, and my television viewing is to keep me abreast of world events so that I may add to stimulating conversations at SAGE or with people I know from SAGE. I spend time cultivating friendships with kindred spirits in my classes.

I am fascinated by the people I have met — who they are now, what their history is, what they bring to each discussion. I have truly been awed by many of their accomplishments. My perspective on senior citizens has also changed. People have such rich and interesting backgrounds. If you ask questions and listen, you will learn.

Many coordinators start their classes by asking everyone to share a bit about themselves. One in particular asked where people went to high school. And as classmates shared, others discovered that they were from the same area. I always try to ask about something that may relate class members' lives to the class topic.

Speaking of topics, it's important to realize that the reason we have such a broad range of choices each term is because any of us can write up and submit a topic suggestion/proposal. Those suggestions are reviewed by our Curriculum Committee. The form for proposing topic suggestions is readily available to all.

The Curriculum Committee, led by John Clerx, reviews suggested topics for clarity, compelling description and likelihood of yielding at least 19 interesting sub-topics for presentations by class members over the 10-week term. After reviewing the proposed topics, the committee votes, and the top 13 are chosen as offerings.

Our Coordinator of Coordinators, Pam Nagami, looks for people who will devote their time to facilitating each class—most often, but not always, the person who has proposed the topic.

Once classes for the term are selected, all SAGE members receive an email or snail-mail announcement and can select any number of classes they want to take (designating their first and alternate choice for each time slot). Those replies are sorted by date of submission, and the first 19 for each offering are placed in the class (brand new members get priority). Coordinators and class members are then notified.

That's how we get our classes and class coordinators. You might also want to serve as a co-coordinator. It's a chance to learn on the "job."

How did you become a member of SAGE? Was it a friend who pestered you until you went to a class with him or her? Was it one of our Open Houses you attended? Do you know someone who might want to attend? We will be sending out fliers soon. Do you love SAGE? Could you talk it up? Contact Diane Lynch, our Membership Chair. Tell her you are available to help.

Our new Forum Chair, Carrie Schiers, provides details about our November event on page two. If you're interested in helping, contact Carrie.

You are reading this column and the rest of the newsletter because of the efforts of our new SAGE Observations Editor, Marcy Goldstein. Have an idea you might want to write about or suggestions for content? If so, contact Marcy.

Let me mention that Jan Bender is our Board Secretary. Board minutes will be displayed on the bulletin

(Continued on page 3)

JULY 4th PARTY

ROSALIE'S FOURTH

Rosalie Lazarus, our gracious hostess with "the" mostest," presided over her third "Fourth of July Picnic" on, of course, July 4th. It was a fabulous event with a dizzying array of food: appetizers, drinks, salads, chicken, cakes, pies, veggie delights and a wonderful opportunity for great conversation. We were lucky enough to have shade, breezes and that wonderful feeling of being close to nature, but with all the amenities.

Adding to the color and charm of the event was Rosalie's aviary, home to beautiful birds, vines and trees, that felt like taking a trip to an exotic forest. Those present at the picnic gathered in the backyard at tables set up around the swimming pool. Dave McClave, Rosalie's volunteer bartender, poured drinks at the poolside bar.

Rosalie noted that her first Fourth picnic was a pot luck affair—wonderful but chaotic because some appetizers didn't arrive until near the end of the day. Not a problem for those of us who like to eat dessert first. The second Fourth, Rosalie took charge, organizing the menu and providing most of the main courses, with others bringing appetizers, salads and desserts.

About 50 SAGE members and friends came the first year, 60 the second and about 70 this year. If next year brings 80, we will all have to think creatively about space. Any ideas?

MEMBERSHIP - OPEN HOUSES

As the new Membership Chair, I have been busy fielding questions regarding our organization. We hold two Open Houses during the year to reach potential new members, but you, our current SAGE members, are our most important recruiters. By sharing your experiences at SAGE with your friends and others, you help encourage new membership. A guest visit to one of our classes is also a wonderful introduction to our world of intellectual curiosity.

On behalf of SAGE, I would like to welcome our new members.

Pat Pelletier
Paul and Elaine Berg
Liliane Yemenidjian
Charles Rosenbaum
Gary Wells
Josh Kanin

Our Open Houses, "A Journey into the Unknown," are scheduled for two successive Saturdays, Oct. 13th & 20th. Suggestions and volunteers are needed to provide the best experience for our guests. Most of our content chairs and coordinators will be presenting brief previews of the varied experiences their particular areas of expertise provide to all of SAGE. I may be reached via e-mail or phone as listed in our directory.

Diane Lynch, Membership Chair



FALL FORUM

Our Fall Forum will be held on November 16, 2018 at the Odyssey in Granada Hills. We are pleased to announce that our speaker will be Thor Steingraber, Executive Director of the Younes and Soraya Nazarian Center for the Performing Arts. Mr. Steingraber will be talking about the Soraya, its Past, Present and Future and will no doubt have lots of interesting information about this exceptional Arts Center! With the Center's new name, in the words of Steingraber, "we extend a broader embrace, both onstage and in the auditorium." We think this event with Mr. Steingraber will be an event to remember.

Carrie Schiers, Forum Chair

President cont. from page 1

board in Classroom A. Phyllis Thompson is our new Treasurer.

And before I forget, let's thank those who have held key SAGE posts for the past two years: Larry Caretto, President; Lorraine Bowman, Treasurer; Laura Gold, Secretary; Jerry Rische, Curriculum Chair; Jan Bender, Coordinator Chair; Phyllis Hall, Membership Chair; Barbara Caretto, Newsletter Editor; Myra Cohen, Forum Chair; Webmaster Reuben Allen, in charge of our website, technology and trips; and Joyce Linden, continues as CSUN Liaison.

Have a compliment for someone or an idea, just drop a note in my mail box. I like to honor people others appreciate. And any idea that might benefit SAGE, bring it on.
Judy Davidson

BITS AND PIECES

SAGE Highlight of the Month Ginny Field, Coffee Chair



Did you know that we have a dedicated volunteer, Ginny Field, in charge of ordering the supplies for our refreshment breaks and keeping our supply cupboard in good order?

This month's *SAGE Observations* would like to recognize Ginny's hard work and bring it to the attention of all of our members.



SAGE Experiences: Travel in Real Time



We frequently ask how SAGE impacts our lives. One connection is how classes and SAGE members' travel plans often intersect. A class topic might stimulate an idea about visiting a place of beauty or historical interest. Alternately, you might visit a really interesting site and decide to base a class on it or an event or person it brings to mind. Jan Bender recently visited the birthplace of the English writer Thomas Hardy (*Return of the Native*, *Mayor of Casterbridge*, *Jude the Obscure*) and realized how much she likes Hardy's writings. This led to her thinking about offering a class on one of Hardy's works. Diane Lynch's

visit to the Genghis Khan Exhibit at the Reagan Library inspired her to do a presentation on the great Khan for the Silk Road class this Fall.

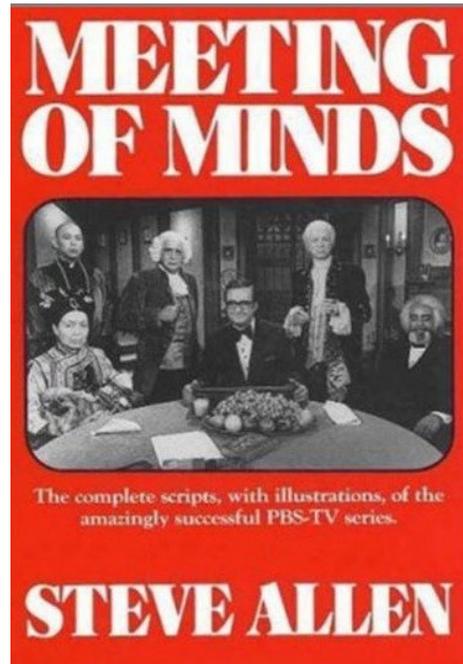
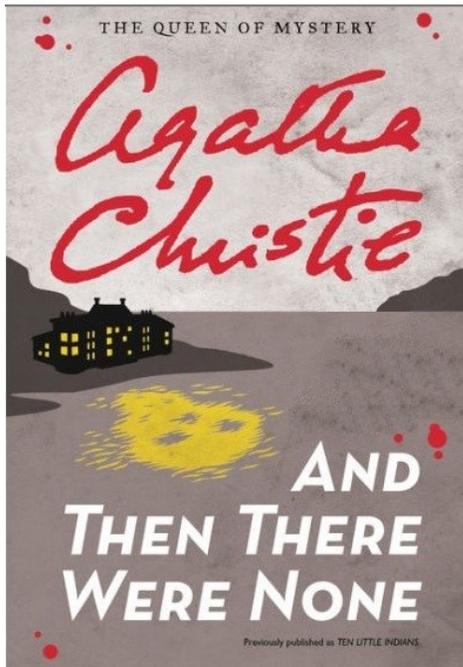
Similarly, our President, Judy Davidson, has also planned visits around people and events she learned about in SAGE classes and discussions. "...in the past, my vacations were more for just getting away from routine and settling in for a week or two someplace with family. Now my vacation itinerary is full of visiting historic places or sites that will help me learn, expand my horizons and, yes, maybe provide fodder for classes at SAGE." If your travels relate to a past SAGE class or might inspire a new one, share your experiences and photos and they might be included in a future edition of *SAGE Observations*. We are all learners and researchers sharing the world.

THE SAGE PLAYERS

Building on the success and fun of the last few Decembers, this year the SAGE Players will offer two separate productions. The first, on Wednesday December 5, will be a staged reading of the whodunit murder mystery, “And Then There Were None” (sometimes referred to as “Ten Little Indians”). For its second offering on Wednesday December 12, The SAGE Players will perform a staged reading of Steve Allen’s “Meeting of Minds.” Cal Torrance will be directing on December 5 and Jerry Rishe will be directing on December 12.

And Then There Were None, English writer Agatha Christie’s best selling novel and one she described as the most difficult of her books to write, was first published in the United Kingdom by the Collins Crime Club in 1939. The *Toronto Daily Star* of March 16, 1940 said “Others have written better mysteries than Agatha Christie, but no one can touch her for ingenious plot and surprise ending.”

Meeting of Minds was Steve Allen’s award-winning PBS series that featured “discussions” with famous historical figures. The show ran on PBS from 1977 to 1981. This performance will star Galileo, Charles Darwin, Attila the Hun, and Emily Dickinson.



The SAGE Players began four years ago, and this year will be performing their fifth and sixth plays. Admission to the plays is always free, but in late November there will be a global email recommending that people rsvp if they wish to attend.

Although this year's plays have already been cast, anyone interested in participating in next year's show should let Jerry Rishe or Cal Torrance know. We could also use volunteers who have knowledge of microphones.

Cal Torrance and Jerry Rishe



CURRENT AND PAST SAGE BOARD – 2018



John Clerx, Carrie Schiers, Judy Davidson, Phyllis Thompson, Barbara Caretto, Lorraine Bowman, Pam Nagami, Larry Caretto, Marcy Goldstein, Phyllis Hall, Joyce Linden, June Adler (seated)

SAGE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President: Judy Davidson
Vice President: Jerry Rishe
Treasurer: Phyllis Thompson
Secretary: Jan Bender
Past President: Larry Caretto



COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Curriculum: John Clerx
Coordinators: Pam Nagami
Forum: Carrie Schiers
Webmaster/Trips: Reuben Allen
CSUN Liaison: Joyce Linden
Membership: Diane Lynch
SAGE Observations Editor Marcy Goldstein

ONLINE CONNECTIONS

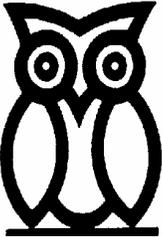
Web Home Page:
<http://www.sagesocietycsun.org>
Email: elders@csun.edu
SAGE Yelp Reviews:
<https://www.yelp.com/biz/the-sage-society-granada-hills>
Facebook Page:
<https://www.facebook.com/pages/SAGE-Society/504341076302357>



SAGE Office Secretary: Roberta Berson
Board of Directors meets the second Monday of each month, beginning at 9:30 AM at SAGE.

16651 Rinaldi Street, Granada Hills 818-831-3014

FALL CLASSES 2018 START: SEPTEMBER 4 END: NOVEMBER 12

TIME	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
9:30-11:30 AM		HOT TOPICS	WHAT HAPPENED 100 YEARS AGO: 1918?	AMERICAN POLITICAL PUNDITS	SPECIAL EVENTS
9:30-11:30 AM		GREAT URBAN PARKS		AFRICA – 5000 YEARS OF HISTORY	
1:15-3:15 PM	INDIA—ITS PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE	FROM THE SILK ROAD TO SILICON VALLEY	HENRY JAMES' <i>THE AMBASSADORS</i>	SPANISH ART: GOLDEN AGE AND BEYOND	
1:15-3:15 PM	<i>CRIME AND PUNISHMENT</i>		FILMS OF BLAKE EDWARDS	THE WORLD'S WORST DECISIONS	

IN MEMORIAM

During this past year, July 1, 2017 to July 1, 2018, SAGE bid a sad and final farewell to two beloved members:

Len Reiter

Burt Fink

We will miss them